

VARIANT 1... **1** Read the text and mark (✓) the following statements «True» or «False».

The most favourite American holidays are Independence Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving. Independence Day or the Fourth of July is the birthday of the United States. On July 4, 1776, the people of the American colonies declared their independence from England. On this day families gather to enjoy a special meal outdoors, some watch sports such as baseball. And all over America, there are beautiful shows of fireworks.

Another favourite holiday is Halloween. We celebrate it on the 31st of October. Children dress up in costumes, looking like ghosts and witches. They ask people for candies, go to parties and try to scare one another.

My third favourite holiday is Thanksgiving. We celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November. Early Americans celebrated Thanksgiving to express their thanks for the fall harvest. Today, we celebrate it to take time to be thankful for all the wonderful things we have, such as family, food, good health and freedom.

		True	False
1	The Fourth of July is also called Independence Day.		
2	The American colonies declared their freedom from the United States.		
3	Many Americans watch sports such as basketball on July 4th.		
4	On Independence Day people watch a beautiful show of fireworks.		
5	The story also discussed Halloween, which falls on the last Thursday of October.		
6	It is customary for children to ask people for sweet things at Halloween.		
7	Children like dressing up in costumes at Halloween.		
8	The third holiday mentioned, Thanksgiving, occurs in autumn.		
9	Early Americans celebrated Thanksgiving to express thanks for rainfall.		
10	Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude for good health and freedom.		

••• **2** Complete the text with the words from the table.

Edward Bellamy was born (1) 1850 in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, to a long line of New England Baptist ministers. He was (2) in the United States and in Germany, and at length (3) law. Working (4) a journalist and editor in New York and (5) Springfield, he began to publish fiction in 1879, and by 1898 he (6) published five novels and a collection of short stories. (7) them was the novel now considered the (8) masterpiece, *Looking Backward*. The visionary novel not only (9) literary fame to Bellamy but established (10) as an important social and economic theorist.

	A	B	C
1	in	at	on
2	educating	educated	education
3	studyed	studed	studied
4	as	like	—
5	a	the	—
6	was	has	had
7	Through	Among	Behind
8	author's	authors	authors'
9	broke	bought	brought
10	him	himself	his

••• **3** Comment on the following issues.

Your family is moving. You are not sure as to whether to move out to the country or into the city. Dwell upon:

- the advantages and disadvantages of both;
- the problems you might have living in a big city or in the country.

VARIANT 2

- ... **1** Read the text and mark (✓) the following statements «True» or «False».

Caring for a Pet Hamster

You and your parents agree that you are ready for a pet. A dog is too big for a small flat. Mom is allergic to cats. So a hamster is the best choice. What will it take to keep your new pet safe and happy?

Choose a hamster from a pet shop that is clean and whose staff seems to know about the animals. If you want to tame and handle your hamster, you'd better choose a younger pet.

Before you get your hamster, you should prepare its new home. Here are the items your hamster must have: a cage, bedding made of wood shavings, nesting material, an exercise wheel, a water bottle, a food dish and food.

Almost all of your hamster's life will be spent in the cage. So, buy the largest cage you can afford.

Make sure that your hamster has fresh water at all times. A general hamster mix from the pet shop will make up most of your pet's diet. You can also give it carrots, raisins, cheese, dog biscuits and acorns as treats. In general, do not feed your hamster sweets or prepared foods. With daily food and water, regular attention and a weekly cage cleaning, your hamster should be a happy addition to your household for several years.

		True	False
1	The article says it is important for parents to agree that you are old enough to have a pet.		
2	Dogs make good pets when you live in a small flat.		
3	When choosing a pet shop, choose one with a knowledgeable staff who can give you information about the pets.		
4	It is better to buy a fully-grown animal than a young one.		
5	A hamster's cage must be big enough to allow your hamster to move around.		
6	A hamster sleeps in wood shavings.		
7	The article says that it is very important to be sure your hamster has water.		
8	A hamster will consider chips and crackers a good treat.		
9	You should clean your hamster's cage every year.		
10	The article recommends that you bring your hamster home for a visit to be sure it will be happy in your flat.		

••• **2** Complete the text with the words from the table.

A Museum Fit for a King

Located on (1) Seine River in the heart of Paris, the Louvre is (2) biggest art museum in the world. It has seven major areas, (3) one hundred different rooms, and (4) 300,000 items in (5) collection.

The Louvre is (6) of several different buildings that (7) added over many centuries. The very first section, built more than eight hundred years ago, was originally (8) as a fortress to protect Paris from the Vikings. Within a hundred years, King Charles V had turned one of the towers into a library. (9) his reign, King Henry IV added a huge section called the Grande Galerie. After the French Revolution, the art in the Louvre was available for everyone to enjoy. The museum opened to the public for the first time (10) November 8, 1793. Today, the Louvre is owned and operated by the French government.

	A	B	C
1	a	the	—
2	a	the	—
3	more than	more then	most of
4	near	nearly	nearest
5	its	his	their
6	making up	makes up	made up
7	were	was	has
8	use	used	using
9	While	During	For
10	at	in	on

••• **3** Comment on the following issues.

Describe a visit to a place that you will always remember.

- Write what place it was and describe it.
- Describe what you were doing there and explain why you will remember it.

VARIANT 3

- **1** Read the text and mark (✓) the following statements «True» or «False».

School Life for a British Schoolboy

I leave home at 6:45 and walk 20 minutes to catch a bus to school. The journey takes an hour because the bus has to keep stopping to pick up other students along the way. On arriving I collect my Tablet PC from the Learning Centre and go to my Tutor Room for registration at 8:30.

We do our early morning work while our class teacher takes the attendance register. The attendance of every child is recorded in a special registration book each morning and afternoon. The teacher reads out each child's name in turn, a child replies and the teacher writes down in the book whether the child is in school or not.

At about 8:50 we leave our Tutor Room to go to the Assembly Hall. In the hall we listen quietly to the music playing. Each week has a different musical theme and the children are asked to listen out for particular things.

Every day I have a different first lesson. Normally it is English but I also have Maths, Computers, Drama and Music and French on other days.

Every student carries a swipe card. We swipe into every lesson to let the school know that we have attended that certain lesson and to know where we are when something happens.

The children can bring a snack from home to eat in the playgrounds. It is usually a packet of crisps, fruit or a couple of biscuits. We play games on either of our two playgrounds, adventure playground or in the large playing field.

Lunch time is from noon to 1:10 p.m. Some children will have a school dinner cooked in our school kitchen. In the afternoon the lessons resume with reading activities. The rest of the afternoon is spent learning one or two of our other school subjects. Afternoon lessons continue until 3:15 p.m. when we go home.

		True	False
1	The boy gets up early and walks to school.		
2	The bus takes each child to school personally.		
3	The pupils' Tablet PCs are kept in the hearing Centre.		
4	Every morning the teachers record attendance in a special book.		
5	Each pupil swipes his card before the lessons.		
6	The learning days always start with the same lesson.		
7	There is usually one student in the Assembly Hall.		
8	In the Assembly Hall the pupils listen to school news.		
9	The children never take snacks from home.		
10	A snack is usually a packet of crisps, fruit or a couple of biscuits.		